

PRESENT Leah Smith, Bea Phear, Ginny Jones, Amy Upton, Matt Merry.

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Hruby, Deborah Wells, Kate Warner, Eunki Seonwoo, William Lake, John Rau, Richard Andre, John Abrams, Heikki Soikelli, Samantha Look, Jane Rossi

Bylaw proposals from the Energy Committee:

Kate Warner introduced the committee and stated they are proposing 3 bylaw amendments. The first is a bylaw that requires all new construction and new renovations to be 100% electric. The second is to require electric charging stations on new job sites and the third is to require all pools have solar pumping stations.

Kate explained that the town has already voted to approve a fossil free town by 2040. The goal is to reduce fossil fuel by 50% by 2030. In our town the library and public safety buildings are already complying and currently we are working on the school. We have two electric town hall cars and two police cruisers. We need to encourage the town to keep going. There is a Home Rule Petition that legislation is acting favorably toward, and Kate added that they will appear before the Select Board on the 26th of January with the same presentation. The electric charging stations require trenching. However, it is cheaper to install them prior to construction. Ginny wondered about the vulnerability of the grid and the potential for hackers. She asked if there was a way to prevent it. Kate said we are living in a changing world. One thing we have is the ability to use electric vehicles as back up power. Sue Hruby said the question about vulnerability was a good one. We have more storms so we are more vulnerable. "We have some neighborhood grids. I don't think we should stop because we are vulnerable".

Leah said we haven't had much time to think about this and the warrant articles are due. Bea said congratulations to the committee for their work. She pointed out that it is important to make sure people are aware of this at town meeting because they will need questions answered. Leah said the bylaw will have to pass by a 2/3rds majority.

Matt asked if the Home Rule petition could go before the town prior to it goes to the State House. Kate said that was correct because towns are allowed to vote on this prior to state legislation vote. She said the state is behind in terms of the goals they have set for themselves. She said the stretch code was supposed to be law by 2020. Many new sites are being done already. She said the stretch code appeared before the MVC and there was a lot of objection. However, it is being done. Amy said this dove tails with the Preserve WT bylaw proposal and it seems we are on the same page. Ginny expressed her concerns about batteries. Kate said there is a lot of research going on and hopefully we can keep up with the curve.

Kate said they will appear before the Select Board with the 100% electric proposal, the EV charging station proposal and the petition.

Pool Bylaw proposal:

Kate said the Energy Committee took the language from the Chilmark pool bylaw and she discussed energy use with the Chilmark ZBA Administrator. Pools can be a water source in the event of fire, particularly during a drought. The initial filling of a pool is supposed to come from a place off site. However, some are using their private wells. Kate said there are a lot of pools in town and we would like to see them heated with solar power because they are a big use of energy.

Some in the meeting said they thought the pools were being filled by Keene, Maciel and the Fire Department. Others thought water was being drawn from the Mill Brook. Russ Hartenstein said that sometimes the Fire Department fills the pool and the homeowner gives a donation. Leah commented that fire is an issue and water sources are important. Jane was asked to get the number of existing pools from the ZBA. Kate said that education is the issue and she felt this bylaw proposal will make a difference. Ginny pointed out that Polly Hill has a list of native plantings that are appropriate for job sites. Kate pointed out that she was unable to find setback regulations for pools. The board confirmed that setbacks are standard for all structures including pools.

Bea said she felt that the PWT, EV and Solar bylaw proposals should move forward, but adding the pool bylaw would be a mistake at this time. Both Ginny and Leah agreed. Leah suggested more community outreach and gathering input from townspeople. Sue Hruby said she called Vineyard Pools to see where they get their pools filled, but they didn't return her call. Ginny wanted to add that there should be a regulation that pool dumping is strictly prohibited on the premises.

Truck Size in RU District:

John Rau said from a ZBA member's perspective, we should let people have two pick-up trucks on their property. However, trucks have gotten bigger and heavier. Deborah Wells, also a ZBA member, pointed out that the new electric trucks are a lot heavier. Deborah added that trucks are moving toward becoming heavier and that is why the ZBA approached this bylaw proposal. John said that his concerns are noise and parking. Matt said the F150 is a standard truck like you see around town, and it's not that heavy. Deborah suggested the allowable trucks on the premises be limited, but the concern for the ZBA was the weight increase over the years. She said Larry Schubert hoped the Planning Board would feel the 10,000 pound requirement was outdated and needed to increase. Matt said a small 3-yard dump truck is 8 to 10,000 pounds. The heavier weighted trucks are bigger, louder and not a good idea for the RU District.

The board felt the increase in truck size for Home Occupations and Service Businesses in the RU District was not favorable to the town. Jane was asked to draft a letter to the ZBA.

Questions from the Preserve WT Committee:

Bea briefly commented on some remaining questions Samantha had from the Preserve WT Committee:

- Notification: Samantha suggested the public hearing notice radius be expanded to for this bylaw and Bea said she felt it was a good idea.
- Site Plan Review: Bea felt this process should continue as is written in the bylaws.
- Mutual review from the ZBA and the Planning Board: Samantha asked if this process was too cumbersome for the applicant. Bea stated it should remain as is.
- Review of Historical structures: Bea said there was no need to re-address the process.
- Deed Restrictions: Bea said it was a valid proposal but “how” do we go about implementing it.

Adjourned at 7:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Rossi, Board Administrator

**Approved on February 14, 2022 Bea-yes, Leah-yes,
Ginny-yes, Matt-yes**